

## Royal Society Medallist, 1983

J. S. P. Beard

John Stanley Percy Beard M.A. B.Sc., D. Phil. (Oxon.) Educated Marlborough College, Wiltshire, and Pembroke College, Oxford. Forest Service West Indies 1937-1947. Research Officer Natal Tanning Extract Co. Ltd 1947-1961. Director Kings Park and Botanic Garden 1961-1970. Director and Chief Botanist Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium, New South Wales, 1970-1972. Consultant Ecologist—hodie.

Shortly after taking up residence in Western Australia Dr. John Beard commenced the analysis of the State's vegetation leading to its classification and eventual mapping, the Vegetation Survey of Western Australia being established in association with Prof. M. J. Webb in 1964. Fifteen years later when Western Australia celebrated its 150th Anniversary the survey, analysis, classification and mapping had been completed. The whole State was covered in seven sheets at scale of 1:1 000 000 and in a single map

at 1:10 000 000. The South West was covered in greater detail by 27 sheets at the scale of 1:250 000. This was achieved through a prodigious programme of fieldwork often over difficult terrain and under rigorous conditions. The subsequent analyses, research, mapping and preparation of the explanatory memoirs accompanying each sheet represent an outstanding contribution by one author.

Dr. Beard derived a new Phytogeographic Map of Western Australia from the vegetation maps. The Phytogeographic Map, available at scales of 1:1 000 000; 1:2 500 000 and approximately 1:10 000 000, being based on natural vegetation is an integration of climatic, geological, edaphic, historic and floristic components. It is a valuable synthesis leading to new understanding of the evolution of the unique flora of Western Australia and a significant contribution to land use planning and management in the State.

## Obituary

Kenneth C. C. Tiller 1900-1983, B.A. (Hons.)  
U.W.A.; M.A. (Cantab.).

Ken ("KC") Tiller entered Teacher Training College in February, 1919 and, on graduation, took up his first appointment as Head Teacher at Dale Hall, near Beverley. After several other appointments he was a teacher at the Newcastle Street Junior Technical School and then went to Kurrawang and Lakewood Schools, both in the Kalgoorlie area.

After studying in Britain, he was appointed as Lecturer in Geology and Geography at the Perth Technical College (P.T.C.), where he remained until his retirement in 1966. During this time he was also guest lecturer in the Geology and Geography departments at U.W.A. He was also involved in setting up the Applied Geology course in what later became W.A.I.T.

My personal acquaintance with Ken Tiller goes back to 1941 when I was both his student and laboratory assistant. In the late 1960s I became his successor at P.T.C.

At P.T.C., he was the last of a legendary trio of geology lecturers. Messrs. Spencer-Compton, Cecil and Tiller ran geology and mining related courses at a time when P.T.C. had strong links with the Kalgoorlie School of Mines and started many students in mining based careers. He also lectured in geography and may have regarded himself more of a geographer than geologist.

The comment on his record when leaving training colleges was, in part, "...a very earnest and conscientious man..." and this perceptive comment accurately summed up "KC" as a lecturer. His teaching material was meticulously prepared, illustrated with lucid diagrams, and presented in an anecdotal manner that reinforced the learning process. As a lecturer, he was an acknowledged master of the art and outstanding even in the first class P.T.C. staff of the time.

But, most of all, he was able to enthuse his students with the joy of learning and mastering the subject, the feeling that students not doing the subject were somehow lesser mortals. To a young teacher he was a model to follow and the writer learnt much from his example and freely given advice.

Since Ken retired, the writer has met many of his ex-students who proudly proclaimed that they did geology with "KC", how they enjoyed the subject, and, as a lecturer, how easy "KC" made the subject appear.

Surely, there is no better epitaph for a teacher than to be remembered with such affection by his ex-students; including the writer.

W. J. L.